

5 types of nursing sows

Some are virus friendly,
others are virus hostile!



Program

- Why reconsider the subject nursing sows?
- General recommendations
- 5 specific types of nursing sows



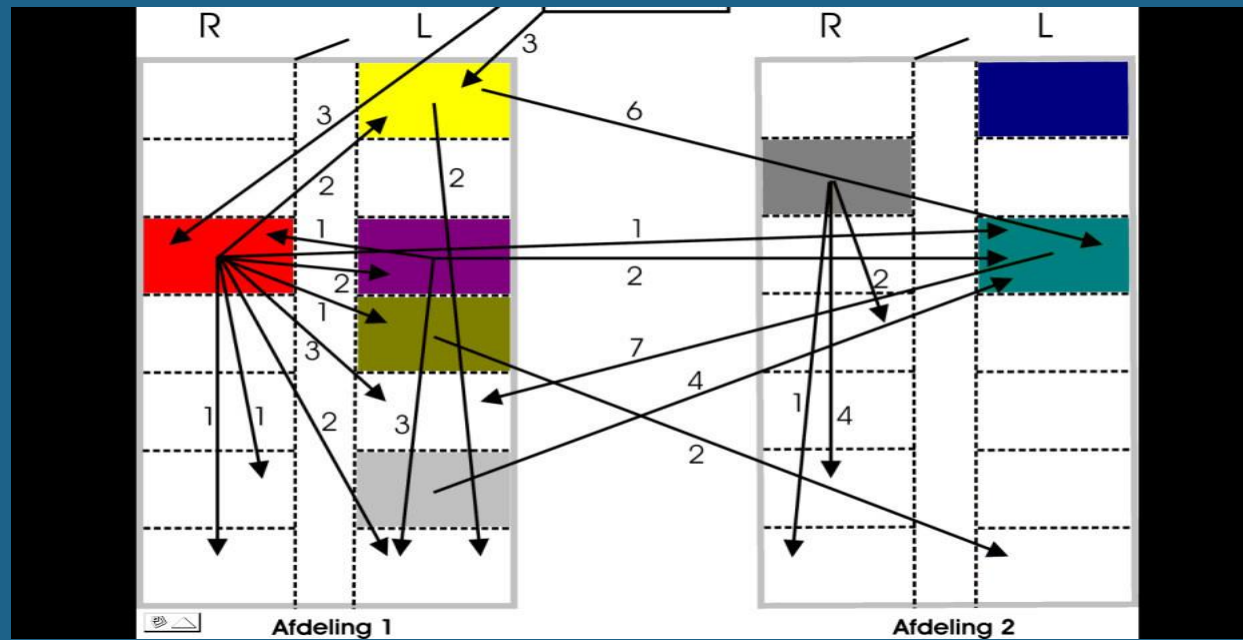
No. 1

*Far more pigs are born than the
sows can take care of by
themselves!*

→ It requires successful nursing sows



Many herds don't have a plan



Do we have a plan?

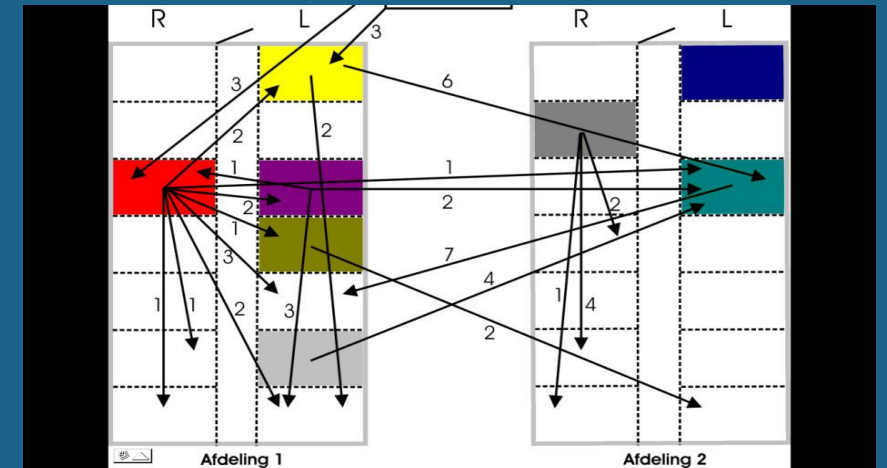
Where are which pigs?

What do we do when?

Useful knowledge before choosing a strategy

- Learn to make nursing sows in a healthy way
- Get control of internal infection
- Consider options for sectioning
- Take advantage of the space

Do we have a plan?



The greatest sinners in diseases in piglets

Smart Swap

Wean healthy pigs

- Control of E. Coli
- Control of Rota virus
- Control of Coccidiosis
- Control of virus diseases
 - Influenza, esp. Pandemic
 - PRRS
 - PCV2

Anamnese:

Resultater:

Prøve nr.	KU-2022-220-1	KU-2022-220-2	KU-2022-220-3	KU-2022-220-4
Prøvebemærkning	B1 pool	B2 pool	H1 pool	H2 pool
Influenza A virus	positiv	positiv	positiv	positiv
Influenza virus H1pdm09	positiv	positiv	positiv	positiv
Porcin cytomegalovirus	positiv	positiv	positiv	positiv
<i>Haemophilus parasuis</i>	positiv	positiv	positiv	positiv
<i>Streptococcus suis</i> type 2	positiv	positiv	positiv	positiv
<i>Bordetella bronchiseptica</i>	negativ	negativ	negativ	negativ
<i>Mycoplasma hyorhinis</i>	positiv	positiv	positiv	positiv
<i>Pasteurella multocida</i>	positiv	positiv	negativ	positiv
PCV2	negativ	negativ	negativ	negativ
<i>Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae</i>	negativ	negativ	negativ	negativ

General recommendations

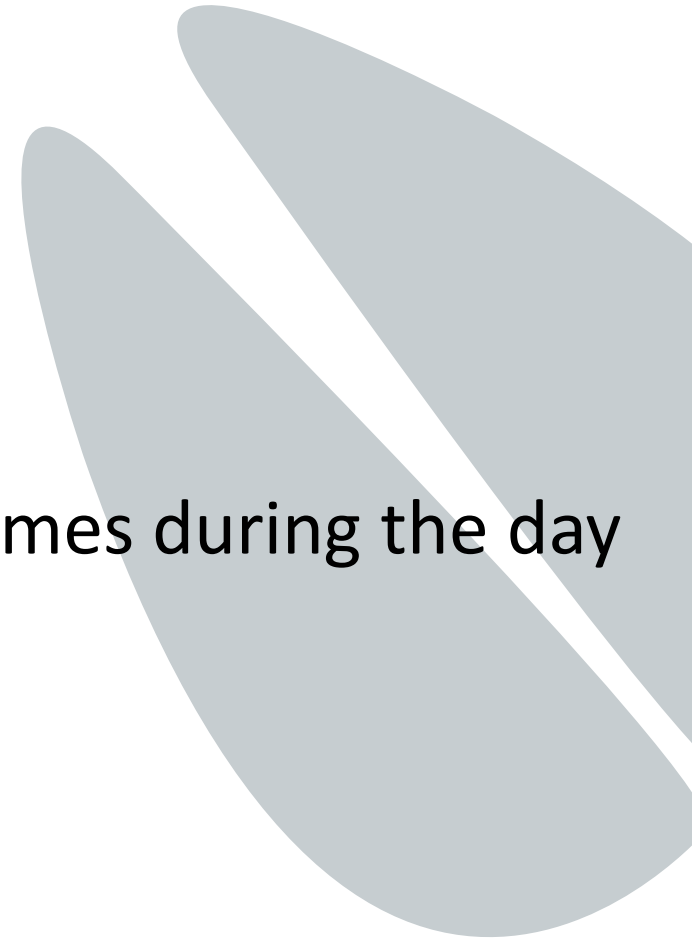
Have a plan!

1st step + 2nd step

2-step (or more)

Make it early in the day – and preferably several times during the day

Collect the smallest pigs at the same sow



General recommendations

Optimal 1st step nursing sow

- 2nd – 3rd parity Note! If no diarrhea gilts can be used with advantage: long suckling produces better production
- Have at least 12 round uniform marzipan pigs
- Own pigs about 5 days old
- Freely available udder with small teats
- Medium condition and no other faults
- Is made when split milking is finished

Optimal 2nd step nursing sow

- Have at least 12 round uniform marzipan pigs
- Own pigs about 21 days old
- Medium condition and no other faults
- Perhaps previous successful nursing sow

Tips ... to not mess up the heat cyclus of the nursing sow

- Avoid letting the sow stand without pigs to avoid disturbance in the heat cyclus
- Important that the sow accepts the pigs quickly
- Adjust the amount of feed

Adjust the feed amount to same level as the sow the nursing sow is replacing

... to encourage the sow's accept of nursing pigs

- Give pain killing to sow before moving
- Let a few big (or all) of the nursing sow's own pigs lie until first suckling is done (about 1,5 hour)
- Perhaps give calming supplement

Beer
Straw
Peber mint oil on nose/in pen
Sedoline

High own weaning gives fewer nursing sows – and higher weaning age

	% of sows who will work as nursing sows	Nursing days per sow	Litters per year sow	Weaned pigs per year sow	% piglets weaned on 25-26 days
10 frav/frav	1,6 60%	38,6	2,19	35,5	62%
11 frav/frav	1,5 50%	36,5	2,21	36	68%
12 frav/frav	1,26 26%	33,5	2,26	36,6	74%
13 frav/frav	1,2 20%	31,25	2,29	37	80%
14 frav/frav	1,14 14%	28,9	2,32	37,5	86%



High own weaning

First 2 days: Keep the sow filled (number of teats \pm 1-2)

Give dairy product and ensure weaner feed (mini feeding system, manual feeding several times daily)

High level of health: Control diseases (piglets AND sows), remember biosecurity, all in/all out

Slaughter the right sows out

5 types of nursing sows

1. Pigs to sow
2. Sow to pigs
3. Mix
4. One and a half step
5. Push pigs forward



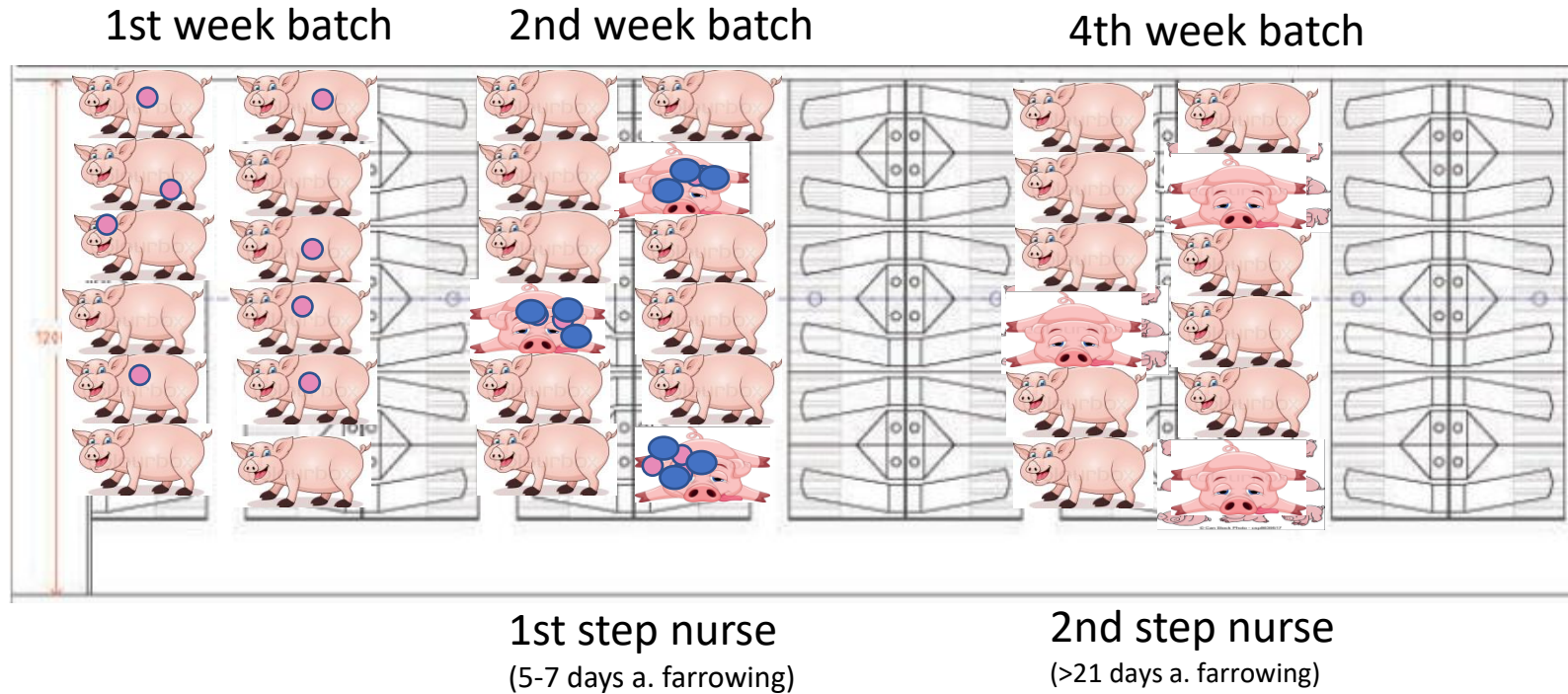
1. Pigs to sow

High capacity utilisation in farrowing section

Ensures mixing of age groups

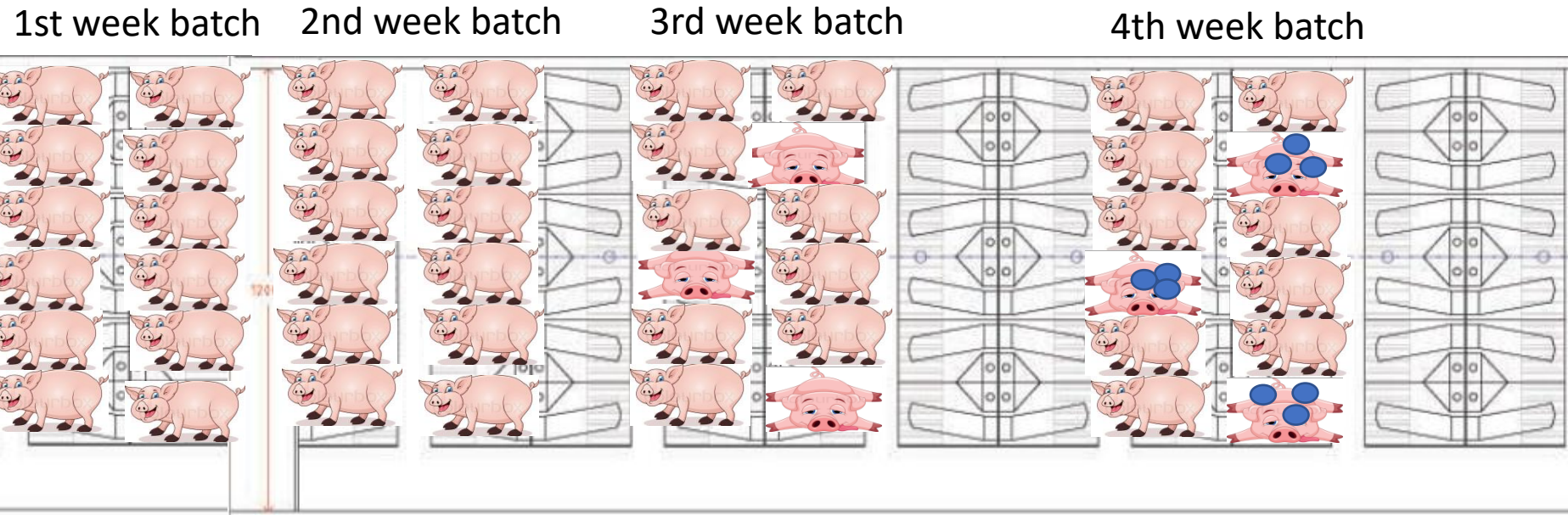


Pigs of 5-7 days are mixed with pigs of 21 days old → both sows and piglets must be moved backwards in the system at weaning



1. Pigs to sow

When the section is weaned



Nursing sow



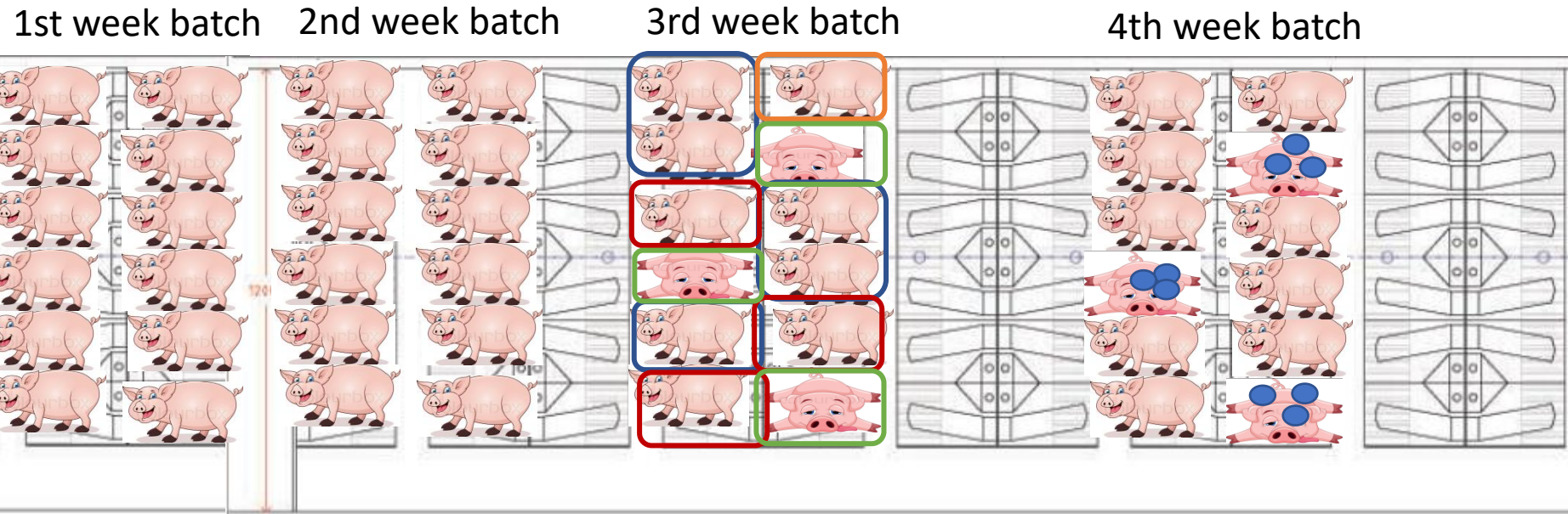
Regular sow

- 2 weeks younger piglets than the rest of the section

Pigs ready for weaning
(2nd step nurse)

1. Pigs to sow

When the section is weaned



Nursing sow



Regular sow

- 2 weeks younger piglets than the rest of the section

2nd step nursing sows

Collected pigs

Pigs with expected age 21 days

New 2nd steps nursing sows

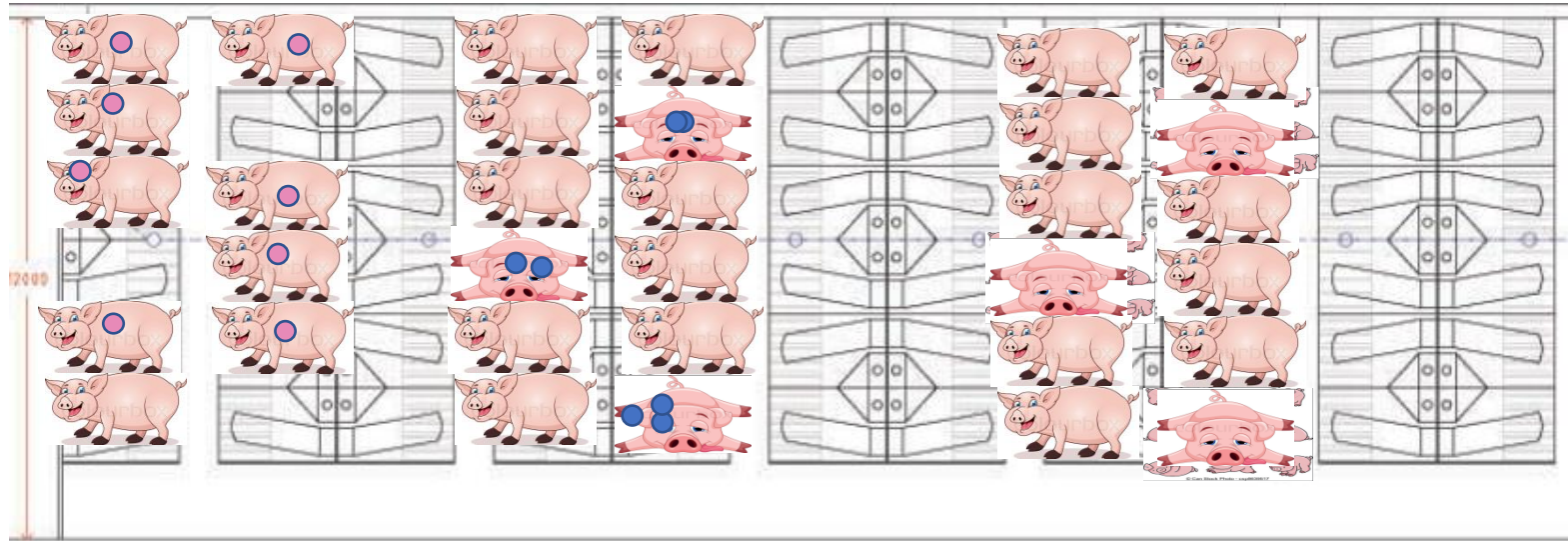
Pigs ready for weaning
(2nd step nurse)

2. Sow to piglets

No mixing of age groups and infections

Ensures that the oldest pigs are weaned

Demands empty farrowing pens



Nursing sow



Regular sow

● 0 days old

● 5-7 days old

1st step nursing sow (5-7 days a. farrowing)

2nd step nursing sow (>21 days a. farrowing)

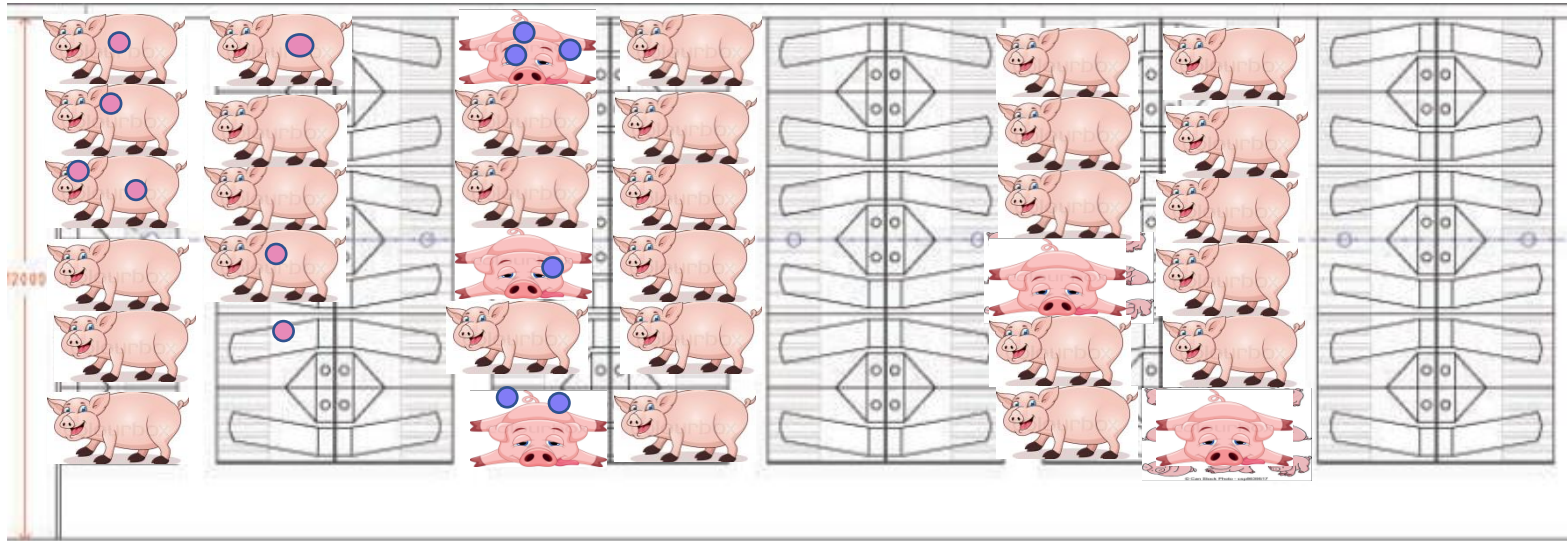
Pig older than 21 days are weaned

"Remove nursing sow, let mellem sow stay"

3. Mix

Age of pigs is almost similar to those standing next to them





Demands empty farrowing pens



2nd step
nursing sow
(>21 days a. farrowing)

1st step nursing sow
(5-7 days a. farrowing)

Pigs older than 21 days are weaned

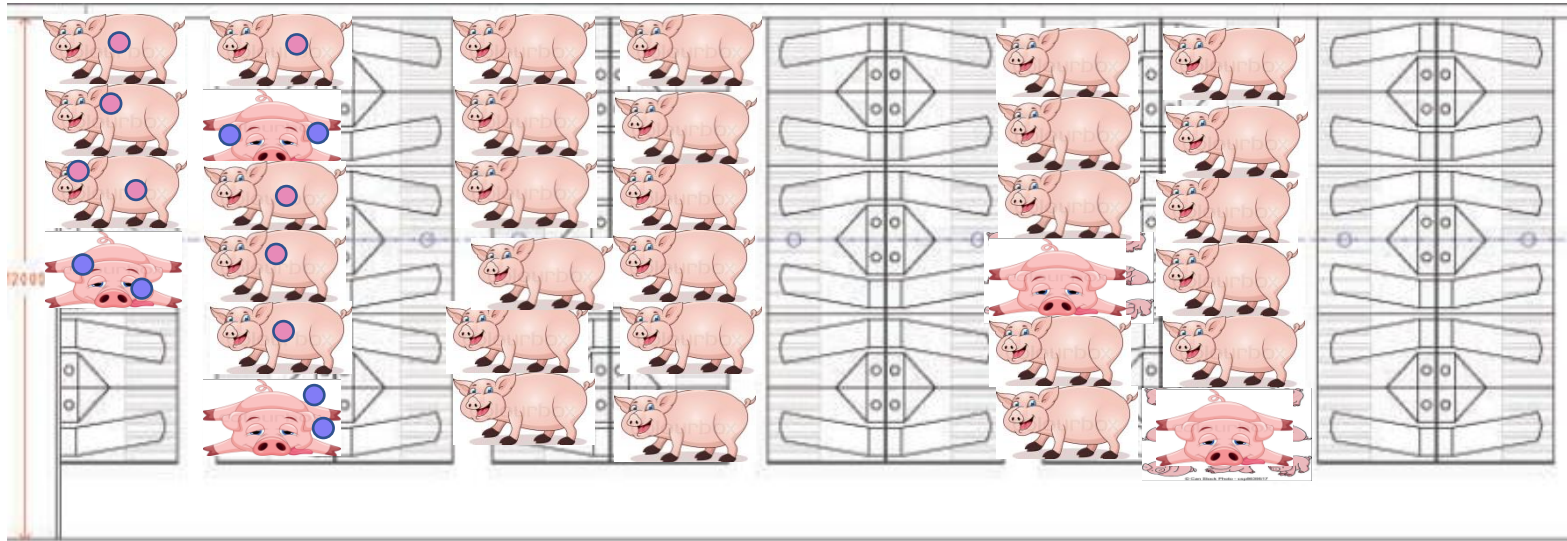
-  Nursing sow
-  Regular sow
-  0 days old
-  5-7 days old

4. 1½ steps

Age of pigs is almost similar to those standing next to them

Suitable for 2 week production

Demands empty farrowing pens



Nursing sow



Regular sow

● 0 days old

● Older pigs
same week
batch

1st step nursing sow
(same week batch)

2nd step nursing sow
(>21 days a. farrowing)

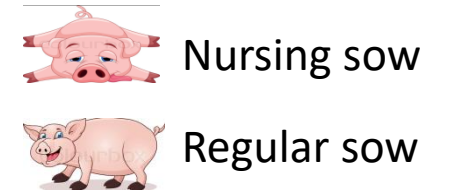
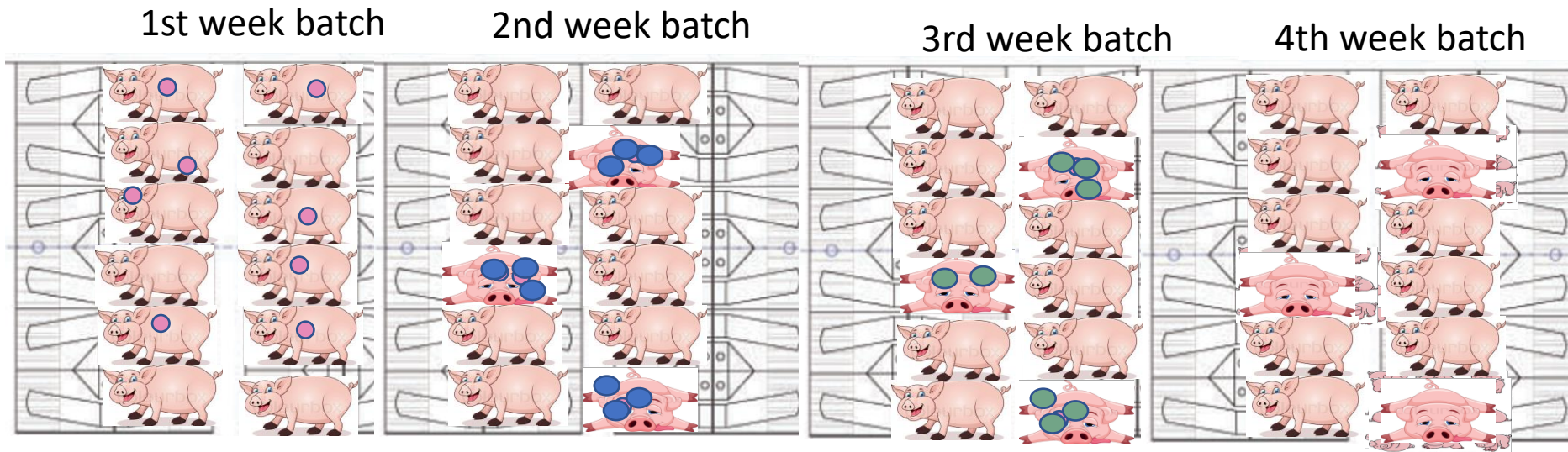
Pigs older than 21 days are weaned

"Pigs to sow expanded"

5. Pushing pigs forward

Pigs are always moved forward, and age is almost similar to the pigs in the same section.

Nursing sow accepts pigs of the same age as her own well



- 0 days old
- 5-7 days old
- 12-14 days old

1st step nursing sow
(5-7 days a. farrowing)

2nd step nursing sow
(12-14 days a. farrowing)

3rd step nursing sow
(19-21 days a. farrowing)

	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Pigs to sow		
2. Sow to pigs		
3. Mix		
4. 1½ step		
5. Push forward		

	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Pigs to sow	Max utilisation of number of farrowing pens	
2. Sow to pigs	Max biosecurity Piglets of same age are kept together	
3. Mix	OK biosecurity Piglets of same age are kept together	
4. 1½ step	Max utilisation of number of farrowing pens Good biosecurity. Suitable for 2 week production	
5. Push forward	Max utilisation of number of farrowing pens Good biosecurity; Piglets of same age are kept together The sow's accept of nursing pigs good	

	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Pigs to sow	Bad virus control	
2. Sow to pigs	Good virus control	
3. Mix	Virus control	
4. 1½ step	Virus control	
5. Push pigs forward	Virus control	

Thank you!

